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SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE

CITATIONS WITH MILITARY RELEVANCE

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Select Bibliography of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* Citations With Military Relevance

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SUMMARY

Problem.

Locating high-quality references can be taxing and time-consuming. Military researchers often spend valuable time searching through library databases and journals to find information relevant to their field of work, time that would be much better spent at the laboratory bench, medical clinic, or at a study site.

Mycoplasma pneumoniae is a common cause of pneumonia among military trainees. Serologic studies demonstrate that as many as 57% of recruits were infected over an 11-week period. The pathogen has been implicated as a risk factor for concomitant infection with other respiratory pathogens. Unexplained fulminant infection and death may also be attributed to infection with *M. pneumoniae*.

Although recognized nearly 30 years ago as a leading cause of atypical pneumonia, little progress has been made in developing clinically useful diagnostic tests or in preventing morbidity from this pathogen. Attempts were made but aborted in the 1970s to develop a vaccine. For many years, the only sure way to diagnose infection was via slow-growing cultures or serologic studies. Recently, the development of better and more clinically adaptable diagnostic techniques, such as those using enzyme-linked immunoassay and polymerase chain reaction, have brought promise to mycoplasma research. These tests may enable military researchers to better understand the epidemiology of *M. pneumoniae* and thereby to prevent morbidity associated with this pathogen.

Objective.

To compile a bibliography of military-relevant *M. pneumoniae* citations for Department of Defense public health and research personnel.

Approach.

We performed a MEDLINE search and collected a number of key published works regarding *M. pneumoniae* infection among military personnel. We added relevant references from their bibliographies. This approach led us to other significant articles, from which we

extracted additional references. Since the Department of Defense sponsored much mycoplasma research during the 1960s and 1970s, we focused chiefly on this time frame.

Results.

This document currently lists 242 references, organized by year of publication, and then stratified in alphabetical order according to the first author's last name. We have chosen to focus upon years for which no electronic catalog of references exists (eg, MEDLINE).

Conclusions.

These seminal works will aid the rapid identification of high-quality references needed to study the epidemiology of *M. pneumoniae*. They are fundamental to understanding this pathogen's epidemiology and in planning public health measures to reduce its associated morbidity.

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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

Problem. Locating high-quality references can be taxing and time-consuming. Military researchers often spend valuable time searching through library databases and journals to find information relevant to their field of work, time that would be much better spent at the laboratory bench, medical clinic, or at a study site.

Mycoplasma pneumoniae is a common cause of pneumonia among military trainees. Serologic studies demonstrate that as many as 57% of recruits were infected over an 11-week period. The pathogen has been implicated as a risk factor for concomitant infection with other respiratory pathogens. Unexplained fulminant infection and death may also be attributed to infection with *M. pneumoniae*.

Although recognized nearly 30 years ago as a leading cause of atypical pneumonia, little progress has been made in developing clinically useful diagnostic tests or in preventing morbidity from this pathogen. Attempts were made but aborted in the 1970s to develop a vaccine. For many years, the only sure way to diagnose infection was via slow-growing cultures or serologic studies. Recently, the development of better and more clinically adaptable diagnostic techniques, such as those using enzyme-linked immunoassay and polymerase chain reaction, have brought promise to mycoplasma research. These tests may enable military researchers to better understand the epidemiology of *M. pneumoniae* and thereby to prevent morbidity associated with this pathogen.

Objective. To compile a bibliography of military-relevant *M. pneumoniae* citations for Department of Defense public health and research personnel.

Approach. We performed a MEDLINE search and collected a number of key published works regarding *M. pneumoniae* infection among military personnel. We added relevant references from their bibliographies. This approach led us to other significant articles, from which we extracted additional references. Since the Department of Defense sponsored much mycoplasma research during the 1960s and 1970s, we focused chiefly on this time frame.

Results. This document currently lists 242 references, organized by year of publication, and then stratified in alphabetical order according to the first author's last name. We have chosen to focus upon years for which no electronic catalog of references exists (eg, MEDLINE).

Conclusions. These seminal works will aid the rapid identification of high-quality references needed to study the epidemiology of *M. pneumoniae*. They are fundamental to understanding this pathogen's epidemiology and in planning public health measures to reduce its associated morbidity.

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